

2023 Pennsylvania Synar Survey Training



1. Synar Resources



□ Accessing the Synar Website

- ✓ Go to www.health.pa.gov
- ✓ Select “I’m looking for:” on the top right of the page
- ✓ Select “Health Statistics”
- ✓ Select “Behavioral Risk and Injury Statistics” under “Health Stats” in the middle of the page
- ✓ Select “Synar Survey” in the middle of the page

1. Synar Resources (cont.)



Resources

- ✓ Overview of the survey
- ✓ Past reports
- ✓ Interactive dashboard to compare historical results
- ✓ Link to the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant website
- ✓ Past Synar coverage reports
- ✓ Latest instruction manual
- ✓ Electronic Collection Form instructions
- ✓ Information regarding the Synar survey design
- ✓ Current Synar training information (PowerPoint, agenda and webinar)
- ✓ Link to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) main Synar website
- ✓ Link to the SAMHSA reports page
- ✓ Link to the Division of Tobacco Prevention and Control's page "Quitting Tobacco"

2. Synar History

References

- ✓ Instruction Manual (pp. 1-4)

Survey History

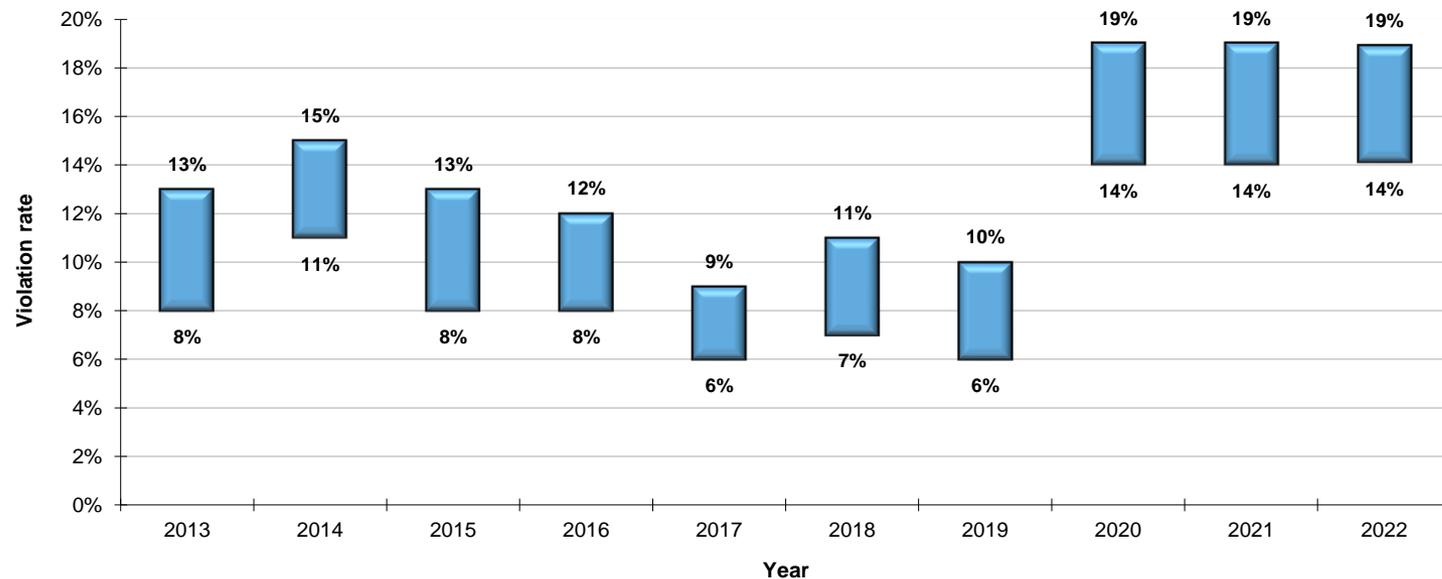
- ✓ Named after Congressman Mike Synar
- ✓ Survey assesses effectiveness of enforcement
- ✓ Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment Block Grant
- ✓ Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP)
- ✓ Annual Synar Report
- ✓ CSAP requirements
- ✓ Synar partnerships

2. Synar History (cont.)

☐ Survey Results

- ✓ 1st survey conducted in 1996
- ✓ First significant decrease in 2002
- ✓ 2022 Results

Synar Violation Rates for Past 10 years (2013 – 2022)



3. Understanding Survey Results



□ Design, Limitations and Common Analysis Methods

- ✓ Results only apply to statewide and stratum level
- ✓ County level analysis is not valid
- ✓ The sample percent ONLY describes the outlets selected in the sample
- ✓ The 95% confidence interval (CI) is used to relate the sample to the population
- ✓ Confidence intervals are used to compare estimates
 - More than 29% overlap between CIs indicates NO significant difference
 - 29% or less overlap requires more testing
 - No overlap indicates SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

4. Survey Planning



References

- ✓ Instruction Manual pages 5-8

Survey sample sent to Regional Primary Contractors

Contractors review and coordinate mapping

- ✓ Locate outlets on street maps
- ✓ Identify survey teams
- ✓ Schedule survey (July 3, 2023)

Reporting

- ✓ Regional Primary Contractors (RPCs) will submit updates to DOH on weekly basis to track survey completion per region
- ✓ DOH will provide Excel spreadsheet to RPCs to complete and email to Vita King each week (vitaking@pa.gov)

4. Survey Planning (cont.)



☐ Survey Participant Requirements

✓ Adults

- Non-tobacco user
- Valid photo ID
- Pennsylvania State Police Background Check (SP4-164)
- Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance Form (CY-113)
- FBI Fingerprint Clearance
- Two is the ideal number – a designated driver and an adult witness/data collector

4. Survey Planning (cont.)



Survey Participant Requirements

✓ Youth

- Non-tobacco user
- 16 to 19 years of age (Disproportionate use of age will bias the survey)
- Valid photo ID (school ID acceptable as long as DOB is included)
- Equal number of males and females
- Match youth to racial and/or ethnic characteristics of neighborhood

5. Survey Training



❑ Conducting a Valid Survey

- ✓ Never solicit – we’re not trying to buy tobacco products – we’re documenting what actually happens
- ✓ Hush-hush is the word – “sound” surveys must be unannounced
- ✓ Follow the rules/procedures – standardization is important
- ✓ Aim for a high survey response rate

❑ Regional Primary Contractors

- ✓ Recruit youth and adult volunteers
- ✓ Provide training by showing a recording of this presentation.
- ✓ Coordinate implementation and completion of survey

6. Survey Procedures

References

- ✓ Instruction Manual pages 9-14

Follow the SCRIPT

- ✓ **S**ecret
- ✓ **C**onsistent
- ✓ **R**igorous
- ✓ **I**mpartial
- ✓ **P**atient
- ✓ **T**enacious

6. Survey Procedures (cont.)



- Procedures prior to inspection

- Procedures during inspection

- Procedures after inspection

- General Procedures
 - ✓ Address based survey
 - ✓ Unannounced
 - ✓ Act natural
 - ✓ Practice
 - ✓ Keep consistent
 - ✓ Know brand
 - ✓ Be honest

6. Survey Procedures (cont.)

General Procedures (cont.)

- ✓ No ID
- ✓ One attempt
- ✓ Do not argue
- ✓ Do not entice
- ✓ No identifiable clothing
- ✓ No identifiable vehicles

Safety

- ✓ Seatbelts
- ✓ Emergency numbers
- ✓ Abusive clerk
- ✓ Unsafe outlet

7. Non-Completions

Outcome of visit is neither SALE nor REFUSAL

References

- ✓ Instruction Manual Appendix 2

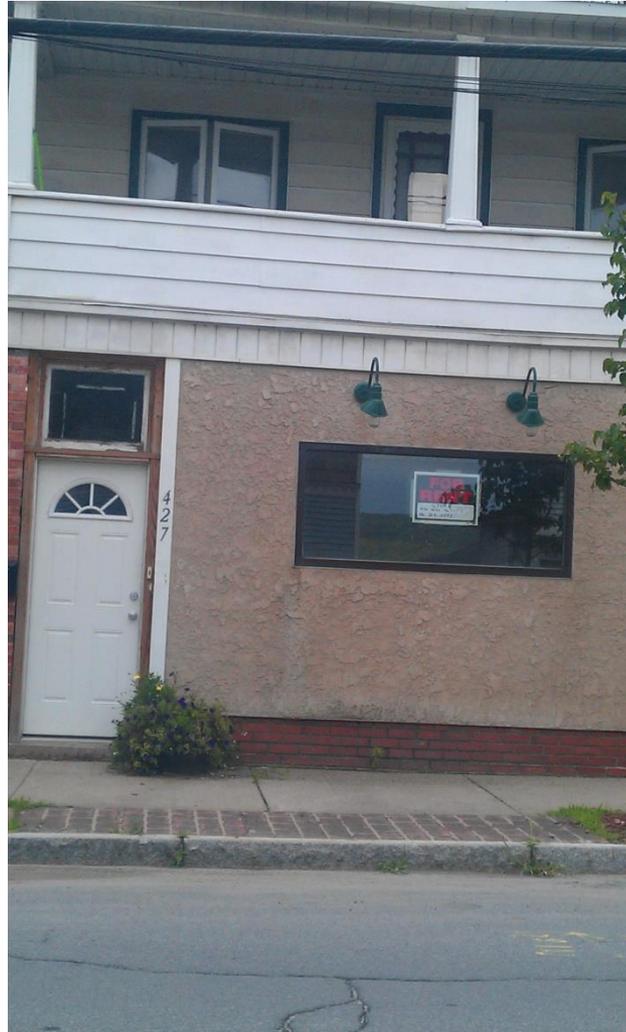
Classifying Non-completions

- ✓ Bars are included in the survey
- ✓ BNA can only be used if there is a sign specifically prohibiting minors from entering or if a bouncer is present
- ✓ For BNAs, the EXACT wording of the sign must be placed in the notes
- ✓ Enforcement checks within the last 12 months
- ✓ All non-completions require short explanation in the notes

7. Non-Completions (cont.)

Scenario:

427 Main Street,
Susquehanna County



Picture By Henry Moore

7. Non-Completions (cont.)

Type of retail outlet (select one): *

- Bar/Tavern
- Beer Distributor
- Convenience - Gas
- Convenience - Grocery - No Gas
- Dollar Store
- Pharmacy/Drug Store
- News outlet
- Restaurant/Deli
- Supermarket
- Tobacco
- EMP-LOT-PVR-UNL
- Other

Non-completion type (select one) *

- (CBB) Cigarettes Behind Bar
- (BNA) Bar Not Accessible
- (DNS) Does Not Sell
- (DOP) Duplicate
- (EMP) Empty Building
- (ITV) Itinerant Vendor
- (LOT) Empty Lot
- (OCN) Outlet Closed/Not Access.
- (ONA) Other/Not Accessible
- (PCL) Private Club
- (PVR) Private Residence
- (UNL) Unlocatable
- (ACC) Accessible - Other
- (ODG) Outlet Dangerous

Notes:

The building had a "For Rent" sign.
Peaked in windows and was empty.

Questions? Contact Nathanael Tinik at
the Division of Health Informatics
(717-547-3646)

7. Non-Completions (cont.)

Scenario:

First Niagara Pavilion
665 Route 18,
Burgettstown, PA 15021



7. Non-Completions (cont.)

Type of retail outlet (select one): *

- Bar/Tavern
- Beer Distributor
- Convenience - Gas
- Convenience - Grocery - No Gas
- Dollar Store
- Pharmacy/Drug Store
- News outlet
- Restaurant/Deli
- Supermarket
- Tobacco
- EMP LOT-PVR-UNL
- Other

Specify other

Concert venue

Non-completion type (select one) *

- (CBB) Cigarettes Behind Bar
- (BNA) Bar Not Accessible
- (DNS) Does Not Sell
- (DUP) Duplicate
- (EMP) Empty Building
- (ITV) Itinerant Vendor
- (LOT) Empty Lot
- (OCN) Outlet Closed/Not Access.
- (ONA) Other/Not Accessible
- (PCL) Private Club
- (PVR) Private Residence
- (UNL) Unlocatable
- (ACC) Accessible - Other
- (ODG) Outlet Dangerous

Notes:

The cigarettes are sold in the concert venue. No cigarettes pre-security nor pre-entry.

Questions? Contact Nathanael Tinik at the Division of Health Informatics (717-547-3646)

7. Non-Completions (cont.)

Scenario:

Bob's Café



A red rectangular sign with white text. The title "STORE HOURS" is at the top in bold, all-caps sans-serif font. Below it, the days of the week are listed in a table format, with the start and end times in white boxes.

Day	Start	End
Monday	9pm	12am
Tuesday	9pm	12am
Wednesday	9pm	12am
Thursday	9pm	12am
Friday	9pm	2am
Saturday	9pm	2am
Sunday	Closed	Closed

7. Non-Completions (cont.)

Type of retail outlet (select one): *

- Bar/Tavern
- Beer Distributor
- Convenience - Gas
- Convenience - Grocery - No Gas
- Dollar Store
- Pharmacy/Drug Store
- News outlet
- Restaurant/Deli
- Supermarket
- Tobacco
- EMP-LOT-PVR-UNL
- Other

Non-completion type (select one) *

- (CBB) Cigarettes Behind Bar
- (BNA) Bar Not Accessible
- (DNS) Does Not Sell
- (DUP) Duplicate
- (EMP) Empty Building
- (ITV) Itinerant Vendor
- (LOT) Empty Lot
- (OCN) Outlet Closed/Not Access.
- (ONA) Other/Not Accessible
- (PCL) Private Club
- (PVR) Private Residence
- (UNL) Unlocatable
- (ACC) Accessible - Other
- (ODG) Outlet Dangerous

Notes:

Bob's cafe was a tavern. Not opened when we went. Sign says it is never open during Synar surveying hours.

Questions? Contact Nathanael Tinik at the Division of Health Informatics (717-547-3646)

8. Supplemental Sample



☐ References

- ✓ Instruction Manual Appendix 6, pages 39-40

☐ Supplemental Sample

- ✓ Supplemental sample is additional sample issued in clustered areas and random areas
- ✓ A completion is a “Sale” or a “Refusal”
- ✓ All sample must be attempted
- ✓ Can’t “give back” supplemental sample after it is requested
- ✓ Contractor contacts Health Statistics directly
- ✓ **Supplemental sample is NOT replacement sample**

8. Supplemental Sample (cont.)



- ❑ Request supplemental sample if the minimum cannot be achieved:

Area	Minimum Completions
Clustered areas (101-611)	13
Allegheny County	70
Delaware County	70
Erie County	60
Philadelphia County	170

8. Supplemental Sample (cont.)



Scenario:

Anum	Snum	Bname1	Bname2	Badd1	Badd2	Bcity	Bzip	Coname	Dist
404	1	Jaibhavani Enterprises Inc	Shop N Drive	3050 Canby Street		Harrisburg	17103	Dauphin	SC
404	2	Kennedy Fried Chicken	Kennedy Fried Chicken	2001 N. 6 Th St.		Harrisburg	17102	Dauphin	SC
404	3	Uncle Moes Cafe Ltd	Uncle Moes Cafe Ltd	301 Chestnut Street	Apt 2313	Harrisburg	17101	Dauphin	SC
404	4	Pennsylvania Cvs Pharmacy LLC	Cvs Pharmacy # 4037	221 223 Market St		Harrisburg	17101	Dauphin	SC
404	5	Chen, Ying	Cheng Shi LLC	1501 N Cameron Street		Harrisburg	17103	Dauphin	SC
404	6	Family Grocery Store	Family Grocery Store	98 N. 17th St.		Harrisburg	17103	Dauphin	SC
404	7	Sarda Corporation	One Stop	901 North 3rd Street		Harrisburg	17102	Dauphin	SC
404	8	Kenneth C Blackwell		448 Hamilton St		Harrisburg	17102	Dauphin	SC
404	9	Nagoor Meera Sahib, Afzahul A	Mini Mart	26 19th And Park Street		Harrisburg	17103	Dauphin	SC
404	10	John H Wagner Stores Inc	John H Wagner Stores Inc	1312 Market St		Harrisburg	17103	Dauphin	SC
404	11	Jovan Inc	Transit News	Harrisburg Transportation	4th And Market Sts	Harrisburg	17101	Dauphin	SC
404	12	Ali Farman LLC	Crown Fried Chicken	1276 Market Street		Harrisburg	17103	Dauphin	SC
404	13	Tinder Box	Tinder Box	217 N Second St		Harrisburg	17101	Dauphin	SC
404	14	Armaan Enterprises Inc	Kings Food Mart	2013 North 7th Street		Harrisburg	17102	Dauphin	SC
404	15	Shaktz Grocery		6 S 3rd St		Harrisburg	17101	Dauphin	SC
404	16	S & S Oil Corporation	City Gas & Diesel Mini Mart	1541 State St		Harrisburg	17103	Dauphin	SC
404	17	Deepam Corp	King Food	2727 N 6th St		Harrisburg	17101	Dauphin	SC

- 2 sales
- 8 refusals
- 3 Does Not sell
- 1 Empty Building
- 3 Bar Not Accessible

Do you request supplemental sample?

Yes!

How many?

3

8. Supplemental Sample (cont.)



□ Requesting Supplemental Sample

✓ Each request must contain the following information:

- The subject line should read **Supp 609** – if 609 is the ANUM being requested
- The total number of supplemental outlets requested is the first line in the body of the email
- Complete list of every outlet that is ineligible in the ANUM with the following information:
 - Sample number SNUM
 - Non-completion 3 letter abbreviation
 - Date last visited
 - Detailed explanation of the non-completion

Send	To...	*ntinik@pa.gov*
	Cc...	*smuccioli@pa.gov*
	Bcc...	
	Subject	Supp 609

Need 5 Supplemental

4 – EMP – 7/19/16: Building empty, doors locked with empty shelves
5 – ONA – 7/13/16: Beer distributor with a sign posted “No one under age 21 permitted”
6 – PCL – 7/13/16: Door is locked and you need a membership key to enter; knocked on door and talked with bartender
8 – BNA – 7/19/16: Sign posted “No one under the age of 21 permitted”
9 – DNS – 7/19/16: Entered auto garage and spoke with mechanic; they do not sell cigarettes
10 – PVR – 7/13/16: Home with 555 posted
11 – BNA – 7/13/16: Sign posted “No one under 21 permitted”
13 – DNS – 7/19/16: Entered hair salon and spoke with beautician; they do not sell cigarettes
15 – EMP – 7/13/16: Building empty with locked doors and empty shelves

9. Legal Forms

References

- ✓ Instruction Manual attachments 5-9
- ✓ Page 15

Underage Purchaser Form

- ✓ Check birth date – MONTH and year

Underage Purchaser Medical Release Form

Parent/Guardian Permission Form

Designated Adult Supervisor Form

Letter of Verification

10. Electronic Collection Form



☐ Survey123

- ✓ Electronic data collection software
- ✓ Must be installed on any machine used to submit forms
- ✓ Sample of outlets will be emailed in an htm file
- ✓ Htm file contains unique hyperlinks to each individual outlet in an area
- ✓ Each unique hyperlink generates the electronic collection form with identifying outlet information prepopulated
- ✓ Instruction Manual Appendix 1

11. Data Collection Forms



References

- ✓ Instruction Manual Appendix 1, 3, 4 & 5
- ✓ Instruction Manual Attachments 1-4

11. Data Collection Forms (cont.)



2018 Collection Form Worksheet

Area: 101	Sample: 1	License: 14174895
Alan Luse Luse Grange Fair #75 107 Second St Post Office Box 34 Centre Hall 16828 Centre	Date:	Time: AM / PM
Notes:		

<p>1 What was the outcome?</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Sale <input type="checkbox"/> Refusal <input type="checkbox"/> Non-completion	<p>7 Race of buyer:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
<p>2 Type of outlet (select one):</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Bar/tavern <input type="checkbox"/> Beer distributor <input type="checkbox"/> Convenience/gas <input type="checkbox"/> Convenience/grocery/no gas <input type="checkbox"/> Dollar store <input type="checkbox"/> Pharmacy/drug store <input type="checkbox"/> News outlet <input type="checkbox"/> Restaurant/deli <input type="checkbox"/> Supermarket <input type="checkbox"/> Tobacco <input type="checkbox"/> EMP-LOT-PVR-UNL <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<p>8 Does the outlet serve alcohol for on-site consumption?</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>3 Type of non-completion (select one):</p> <input type="checkbox"/> (CBB) Cigarettes Behind Bar <input type="checkbox"/> (BNA) Bar Not Accessible <input type="checkbox"/> (DNS) Does Not Sell <input type="checkbox"/> (DUP) Duplicate <input type="checkbox"/> (EMP) Empty Building <input type="checkbox"/> (ITV) Itinerant Vendor <input type="checkbox"/> (LOT) Empty Lot <input type="checkbox"/> (OCN) Outlet Closed/Not Acc. <input type="checkbox"/> (ONA) Other/Not Acc. <input type="checkbox"/> (PCL) Private Club <input type="checkbox"/> (PVR) Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> (UNL) Unlocatable <input type="checkbox"/> (ACC) Accessible-Other <input type="checkbox"/> (ODG) Outlet Dangerous	<p>9 Was adult supervisor in the outlet?</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>4 Sex of buyer:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<p>10 Was buyer asked to show ID?</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>5 Age of buyer:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> 15 <input type="checkbox"/> 16 <input type="checkbox"/> 17	<p>11 Was buyer asked his/her age?</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>6 Is buyer of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin?</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>12 Were warning signs visible?</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	<p>13 Sex of clerk:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
	<p>14 Were location fields accurate?</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Questions? Contact Nathanael Tinik at the Division of Health Informatics (717-547-3646)

11. Data Collection Forms (cont.)



Attachment 3: Batch Control Sheet (Example Only)

BATCH CONTROL SHEET Synar 2016

Health District:	NC	Area Surveyed:	Clinton
Area Number:	101		
Batch Start Date:		Batch End Date:	

Designated Adult Supervisors:

NAME	ORGANIZATION	Attended June 14th Training call (Yes or No)	Email

Complete List of Youth Participants used for this Cluster:

	NAME	AGE	GENDER	Outlets Visited
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
Total Outlets Visited:				

Survey Report Forms Accountability:

OUTCOME	COUNT	TOTALS	COUNT
SALE		TOTAL COMPLETIONS (Sale + Refusal)	
REFUSAL		TOTAL COMPLETIONS + NON-	
NON-COMPLETION			

11. Data Collection Forms (cont.)



Synar 2014 Compliance Sheet		Centre			
Northcentral District Area Number 101		Sale	Refusal	Non-Com	Non-Completion Type(3-letter code)
1	Nittany Owl Wings LLC Hooters Restaurant 538 East College Avenue State College 16801	_____	_____	_____	_____
2	Thrift Drug Inc Rite Aid #11013 510 Westerly Parkway State College 16801	_____	_____	_____	_____
3	Nittany Oil Company, Inc. Salladasburg Minitmart #256 321 North Front Street Attn: Sandra Arble Philipsburg 16866	_____	_____	_____	_____
4	Book Store Inc Grahams Confectionery 124 South Allen St State College 16801	_____	_____	_____	_____

11. Data Collection Forms (cont.)



AREA ACCOUNTING FORM

NON-COMPLETIONS

(Synar 2014)

Health District: NC

Area Description: Centre

Area Number: 101

SAMPLE NUMBER

REASON													TOTAL
(CBB) Cigarettes Behind Bar													
(BNA) Bar Not Accessible													
(DNS) Does Not Sell													
(DUP) Duplicate													
(EMP) Empty Building													
(ITV) Itinerant Vendor													
(LOT) Empty Lot													
(OCN) Outlet Closed / Not Accessible													
(ONA) Other/Not Accessible													
(PCL) Private Club													
(PVR) Private Residence													
(UNL) Unlocatable													
(ACC) Accessible-Other													
(ODG) Outlet Dangerous													
TOTAL													

12. Highlights



Collection Methods

- ✓ Electronic data collection software called Survey123
- ✓ Instructions for electronic collection method posted on website and included in instruction manual
- ✓ Collection form worksheet still required as a backup

Mailing Forms

- ✓ Page 17-18 of the manual
- ✓ Send forms on flow basis
- ✓ Do not staple anything
- ✓ Each area should contain Batch Control Sheet, Area Accounting Form(s), Compliance Sheets and Collection Form Worksheets in that order

Mapping

- ✓ Page 6 of the manual

12. Highlights (cont.)



Alcohol/Bars

- ✓ BNA must have a SIGN or a BOUNCER
- ✓ The exact wording of the SIGN must be placed in notes

Outlet Categories Page 25-27 of the manual

- ✓ Cheat Sheet has definitions

12. Highlights (cont.)



- If Question 3 equals EMP, LOT, PVR or UNL then Question 2 MUST equal EMPLOTTPVRUNL!
- EMP is used for empty buildings; OCN is used for outlets that are closed but not permanently out of business!
- Every non-completion requires a short explanation in the notes; no exceptions!
- If an outlet is closed during your visit but is open during other times within the Synar surveying timeframe, then you must revisit and make an attempt!

12. Highlights (cont.)



- The survey is unannounced and confidential

- Synar website contains:
 - A link to the Block Grant website with the latest Federal Annual Synar Report
 - The latest coverage survey results
 - The instruction manual
 - The training PowerPoint
 - The training agenda
 - Information on the survey design
 - Survey results from 2008 to the present

- If a sampled outlet is not in your area, contact me immediately so we can get it to the right person!

12. Highlights (cont.)



□ General

- ✓ Contact Nathanael with questions
 - ✓ ntinik@pa.gov
 - ✓ (717) 547-3646

Thank you for completing this training!